

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A cordless stethoscope system for use in hazardous material environments, the cordless stethoscope system comprising:

a ~~fluid-tight~~ housing, the housing being graspable sized and shaped for being grasped by a gloved hand and comprising a fluid tight portion, having a head opening, an activation switch opening, a microphone opening and a microphone switch opening;

a power source, the power source being housed within the fluid tight portion housing;

a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head being positioned within the head opening of the housing for sensing auscultatory sounds and having a first fluid tight member, the first fluid tight member being positioned between the stethoscope head and the head opening and connected in circuit to the power source;

a fluid tight cover, the fluid tight cover being positioned over the stethoscope head for sealing the head opening;

a momentary activation switch, the momentary activation switch being positioned within the activation switch opening and connected in circuit to the stethoscope head for activating the stethoscope head when the momentary activation switch is actuated;

a second fluid tight cover, the second fluid tight cover being positioned over the momentary activation switch for sealing the activation switch opening;

a microphone, the microphone being positioned within the microphone opening for sensing sound communications and having a second fluid tight member, the second fluid tight member being positioned between the microphone and the microphone opening and connected in circuit to the power source;

a microphone activation switch, the microphone activation switch being positioned within the microphone switch opening and connected in circuit to the microphone for activating the microphone when the microphone activation switch is actuated;

a third fluid tight cover, the third fluid tight cover being positioned over the microphone switch for sealing the microphone switch opening;

a magnetic induction transmitter, the magnetic induction transmitter being housed within the fluid tight portion and housing connected in circuit to the power source for transmitting the auscultatory sound sensed by the stethoscope head and sound communications sensed by the microphone in a magnetic field;

a receiver housing;

a receiver power source, the receiver power source being positioned within the receiver housing;

a magnetic induction receiver, the magnetic induction receiver being housed within the receiver housing and connected in circuit to the receiver power source for receiving the magnetic field containing the auscultatory sound and sound communications; and

an ear piece, the ear piece being connected in circuit to the magnetic induction receiver for converting the magnetic field received by the receiver into audible sound.

2. (currently amended) The cordless stethoscope system of claim 1 wherein the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing further comprises an indicator opening and an indicator for indicating power flow to the stethoscope head, the indicator being positioned within the indicator opening and connected in circuit to the power source.

3. (currently amended) The cordless stethoscope system of claim 2 wherein the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing further comprises a ring, the ring providing means for attaching the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing to another object.

4. (currently amended) The cordless stethoscope system of claim 1 further comprising a no slip grip connected to an outer portion of the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing, the no slip grip thus for enhancing a user's ability to grasp the housing providing an improved gripping surface.

5. (currently amended) A sound sensing device for use in hazardous material environments, the device comprising:

a ~~fluid-tight~~ housing, the housing being graspable sized and shaped for being grasped by a gloved hand and comprising a fluid tight portion, having a head opening, an activation switch opening, a microphone opening and a microphone switch opening;

a power source, the power source being housed within the fluid tight portion housing;

a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head being positioned within the head opening of the housing for sensing auscultatory sounds and having a first fluid tight member, the first fluid tight member being positioned between the stethoscope head and the head opening and connected in circuit to the power source;

a momentary activation switch, the momentary activation switch being positioned within the activation switch opening and connected in circuit to the stethoscope head for activating the stethoscope head when the momentary activation switch is actuated;

a first fluid tight cover, the first fluid tight cover being positioned over the momentary activation switch for sealing the activation switch opening;

a microphone, the microphone being positioned within the microphone opening for sensing sound communications and having a second fluid tight member, the second fluid tight member being positioned between the microphone and the microphone opening and connected in circuit to the power source;

a microphone activation switch, the microphone activation switch being positioned within the microphone switch opening and connected in circuit to the microphone for activating the microphone when the microphone activation switch is actuated;

a second fluid tight cover, the second fluid tight cover being positioned over the microphone switch for sealing the microphone switch opening; and

a magnetic induction transmitter, the magnetic induction transmitter being housed within the fluid tight portion and ~~housing~~ connected in circuit to the power source for transmitting the auscultatory sound sensed by the stethoscope head and the sound communications sensed by the microphone.

6. (currently amended) The device of claim 5 wherein the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing further comprises an indicator opening and an indicator for indicating power flow to the stethoscope head, the indicator being positioned within the indicator opening and connected in circuit to the power source.

7. (currently amended) The device of claim 6 wherein the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing further comprises a ring, the ring providing means for attaching the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing to another object.

8. (currently amended) The device of claim 5 further comprising a no slip grip connected to an outer portion of the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing, the no slip grip for enhancing a user's ability to grasp the housing providing an improved gripping surface.

Claim Nos. 9 – 20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A sound sensing device for use in hazardous material environments, the device comprising:

a ~~fluid-tight~~ housing, the housing being sized and shaped for being grasped by a gloved hand and comprising a fluid tight portion, having a head opening and an activation switch opening;

a power source, the power source being housed within the fluid tight portion housing;

a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head being positioned within the head opening of the housing for sensing auscultatory sounds and having a first fluid tight member, the first fluid tight member being positioned between the stethoscope head and the head opening and connected in circuit to the power source;

a momentary activation switch, the momentary activation switch being positioned within the activation switch opening and connected in circuit to the stethoscope head for activating the stethoscope head when the momentary activation switch is actuated;

a fluid tight cover, the fluid tight cover being positioned over the momentary activation switch for sealing the activation switch opening; and

a magnetic induction transmitter, the magnetic induction transmitter being housed within the fluid tight portion and housing connected in circuit to the power source for transmitting the auscultatory sounds.

22. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing further comprises an indicator opening and an indicator for indicating power flow to the stethoscope head, the indicator being positioned within the indicator opening and connected in circuit to the power source.

23. (currently amended) The device of claim 22 wherein the ~~fluid-tight~~ housing further comprises a ring, the ring providing means for attaching the fluid-tight housing to another object.

24. (original) The device of claim 23 further comprising a no slip grip, the no slip grip being connected to an outer portion of the fluid-tight housing for enhancing a user's ability to grasp the housing providing an improved gripping surface.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A cordless stethoscope for use in hazardous material environments, the cordless stethoscope comprising a fluid-impermeable, hand-holdable casing assembly, a cordless data transmitter, a remote receiver, and a sound reproduction device, the casing assembly thus being sized and

shaped for being grasped by a gloved human hand, the casing assembly comprising a stethoscope head end, the stethoscope head end for receiving auscultatory sound data, the data transmitter being housed within the casing assembly for transmitting auscultatory sound data received by the stethoscope head end to the remote receiver, the remote receiver for relaying auscultatory sound data transmissions from the data transmitter to the sound reproduction device, the sound reproduction device for converting the relayed auscultatory sound data transmissions into audible sounds.

27. (currently amended) The cordless stethoscope of claim 26 further comprising a microphone assembly, the microphone assembly being in electrical communication with the data transmitter for relaying voice sound data to the data transmitter, the data transmitter for transmitting voice sound data received by the microphone assembly to the remote receiver, the remote receiver for relaying voice sound data transmissions from the data transmitter to the sound reproduction device, the sound reproduction device for converting the relayed voice sound data transmissions into audible sounds.
28. (previously presented) The cordless stethoscope of claim 26 wherein the data transmitter is a magnetic induction transmitter, the magnetic induction transmitter for relaying the auscultatory sound data to the remote receiver via an omnidirectional magnetic field, the magnetic induction transmitter for



enhancing cooperative usage with peripheral equipment, the peripheral equipment operatively utilizing radio wave-based electromagnetic energy.

29. (previously presented) The cordless stethoscope of claim 27 comprising an indicator, the indicator for indicating operation of the stethoscope head end.
30. (currently amended) The cordless stethoscope ~~sound-relaying device~~ of claim 29 comprising device-coupling means, the device-coupling means for removably coupling the sound relaying device to another object.
31. (previously presented) A sound relaying device for use in hazardous material environments, the device comprising, in combination, a fluid-impermeable, hand-holdable casing assembly, a microphone assembly, and a data transmitter, the casing assembly being sized and shaped for being grasped by a gloved human hand, the casing assembly comprising a stethoscope head end, the stethoscope head end for receiving auscultatory sound data, the microphone assembly being encased within the casing assembly for receiving voice sound data, the data transmitter being encased within the casing assembly and cooperatively associated with the stethoscope head end and the microphone assembly for relaying the auscultatory and voice sound data to a remote receiver.

32. (currently amended) The sound relaying device of claim 31 ~~[[30]]~~ wherein the data transmitter is a magnetic induction transmitter, the magnetic induction transmitter for relaying the sound data to the remote receiver via a magnetic field, the magnetic induction transmitter for enhancing cooperative usage with the peripheral equipment operatively utilizing radio wave-based electromagnetic energy.
33. (previously presented) The sound relaying device of claim 31 comprising an indicator, the indicator for indicating operation of the stethoscope head end.
34. (previously presented) The sound relaying device of claim 32 comprising device-coupling means, the device-coupling means for removably coupling the sound relaying device to another object.